

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4510

INFO AMEMBASS SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1360

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINR PFOR TW ES

1. DR. LIEN CHAN (6647/2069), A 38-YEAR OLD UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO EDUCATED PROFESSOR WHO NOW HEADS THE POLITIFAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY, WILL DEPART TAIWAN ON MARCH 26, 1975 TO REPLACE RETURNING HSIEH JAN-CHIH (MILTON HSIEH) AS ROC AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR, LIEN IS THE SON OF LIEN CHEN-TENG (6647/6201/2639), WHO BECAME THE FIRST NATIVE-BORN TAIWANESE TO ACHIEVE MINISTERIAL RANK WHEN HE WAS NAMED MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN 1960. THE ELDER LIEN, CURRENTLY MINISTER W/O PORTFOLIO, LEFT TAIWAN IN 1931 TO EMBARK ON A CAGLER WHICH BROUGH HIM BACK TBWTAIWAN 14 YEARS LATER AS A HIGH-RANKING GROC GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARY (WITH THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL).

2. LIEN CHAN WAS BORN IN PEKING IN 1936, GRADUCATED FROM THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVESITY (1958), EARNED HIS PH.D. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (1964), TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN (1965-66) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT (1966-68). HE RETURNED TO TAIWA SIN 1968, TAUGHT AT THE LAW COLLEGE OF NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY (SINCE 1968) AND HAS SERVED CONCURRENTLY AS DIRECTOR OF THE POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL
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SCIENCE (NTU COLLEGE OF LAW) AFK AS HEAD OF THE POLITICAL

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT. IN 1969 AT THE URGING OF HIS FATHER HE RAN AND WAS ELECTED AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE, A POSITION WHICH HE STILL HOLDS.

3. LIEN CHAN IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER MISS FANG YU (2455/4416). THEY WERE MARRIED IN CHICAGO ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1965. SHE WAS BORN IN NANKING IN 1944, WAS ELECTED MISS CHINA IN TAIWAN'S 1962 BEAUTY PAGEANT, WAS GRADUATED FROM THE NTU IN PLANT PATHOLOGY IN 1964, AND EARNED HER M.S. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO IN 1965. AFTER RETURNING TO TAIWAN IN 1968, MRS. LIEN TAUGHT BRIEFLY AT THE NTU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE. THE LIEN'S HAVE TWO CHILDREN, A GIRL ABOUT 7 YEARS OLD AND A BOY ABOUT 5 YEARS OLD.

4. LIEN CHAN HAS HELD NO PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT POSITION BUT HAS ATTENDED NUMEROUS ACADEMIC AND QUASI-GOVERNMENT CONFERENCES ABROAD AS AN ROC DELEGATE INCLUDING SEVERAL VISITS TO SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA. LIEN'S ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT BECAUSE OF HIS LONGTIME U.S. RESIDENCE, BUT IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE HAS ONLY A LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF SPANISH.

5. LIEN'S DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WAS ENTITLED "THE CRITICISM OF HU SHIH THOUGHT IN COMMUNIST CHINA". IN ADDITION, HE HAS SEVERAL ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS TO HIS CREDIT, INCLUDING: "CHINESE COMMUNISM VERSUS PRAGMATISM-THE CRITICISM OF HU SHIH'S PHILOSOPHY, 1950-1958", JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES, 1968; "SUN YAT-SEN ON LAND UTILIZATION, AGRICULTURAL HISTORY" (PUBLICATION AND DATE UNKNOWN), AND A SECTION ON DR. HU SHIH APPEARING IN ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA, LATEST EDITION. LIEN IS ALSO LISTED IN WHO'S WHO IN THE EAST, 12TH EDITION.

6. LIEN IS CONSIDERED THE SECOND TAIWANESE (ALTHOUGH BORN IN PEKING) TO HAVE BEEN NAMED TO AN ROC AMBASSADORSHIP ABROAD, THE FIRST BEING ROC AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA, FANG CHIN-YEN (2075/6855/3508), WHO WAS NAMED TO HIS CURRENT POST ON DECEMBER 30, 1971.

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7. WHILE STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES, LIEN WAS SUSPECTED OF TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT SYMPATHIES BY ROC SECURITY SERVICES AND AT ONE TIME WAS ACTUALLY UNDER INVESTIGATION. BUT HIS RETURN TO TAIWAN AND SUBSEQUENT INVOLVEMENT IN MANY ROC ACTIVITIES RESTORED HIM TO THE GOOD GRACES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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